Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) services upto 49% of the total equity subject to, *inter-alia*, obtaining licence for GMPCS from the Telecom Authority on the recommendations of an Inter-Ministerial Licencing Committee. In addition as part of the Satellite Communication Policy (SCP) implementation, Government is considering guidelines and norms for Foreign Direct Investment in establishment and operation of communication satellite system by Indian private companies.

(c) No such plan has been formulated.

Achieving Self-Reliance in space technology

1385. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn any time-bound proposal to achieve self-reliance to avoid dependence on other nations, as the country's needs for space applications are diverse and large; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is the budgetary allocation for R&D for the space research, in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The specific programmes of 9th Five Year Plan oriented towards achieving self-reliance in space technology include:

- Conducting developmental flights and operationalisation of Geo-synchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV). A sum of Rs. 505 Crores is allocated in the 9th Plan towards this.
- Strenghening the R&D base towards realisation of operational satellites and launch vehicles in a self-reliant manner. Rs. 535 Crores is allocated in 9th Plan towards this.
- Interaction with premier academic, scientific and research institutes in the country for carrying out space science research in various areas. Rs. 47 Crores is earmarked for this purpose in 9th Plan.
- Accelerated efforts for indigenisation of space-qualified electronic components and materials used in satellite and launch vehicles through Indian industries. Rs. 95 Crores is earmarked in 9th Five Year Plan towards such efforts.

Exodus of Scientists from ISRO

1386. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that discontentment is brewing among the ISRO scientists and engineers and they have threatened brain drain;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a substantial number of scientists and engineers have quit space research organisations within the last two years or so;

(c) if so, the number of scientists and engineers who left the space research organisations during the last two years;

(d) the reasons for their discontentment; and

(e) what steps have been taken by the Government to redress their grievances to check their exodus from the space research organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 242 Scientists/Engineers have resigned from Indian Space Research Organisations during the last two years (since October 1996 till November 1998).

(d) and (e) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.